



James E. McGreevey  
Governor

# The Commissioner's Report

NJ Dept. of Community Affairs



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

Fall 2003

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## Greetings from Governor McGreevey & Commissioner Levin

We recently concluded the Governor's Conference on Housing and Community Development - the most successful yet - and are looking ahead to new challenges and accomplishments in the months to come.

In this edition, you will read about Housing Conference highlights and see what we are doing to help all New Jersey residents find a place to call home in a community that meets their needs. For example, last year we announced our commitment to help 20,000 working families and individuals find homes over four years - our Leading 20,000 Families Home campaign. In only 18 months, we have provided more than 12,000 of the 20,000-unit commitment.

You also will read about some important proposals regarding Smart Growth in our state. This year's November ballot offers New Jersey voters an opportunity to preserve some of the state's most beautiful open space, protect its high-quality drinking-water supplies and other vital natural resources, and help ensure that our communities remain healthy, environmentally-sound and desirable places to live, work and raise families. These ballot questions are the result of legislative action we initiated earlier this year to implement the Smart Growth agenda outlined during the State of the State address last January.

As an advocate for New Jersey, you can play a key role in educating other voters about these proposals that, if approved, will significantly advance our Smart Growth initiatives. With all good wishes,

*James E. McGreevey*  
James E. McGreevey  
Governor

*Susan Bass Levin*  
Susan Bass Levin  
DCA Commissioner

## What is Your Vision for New Jersey?



Open Space?



Or Sprawl?

## Everyone Has A Part In Shaping New Jersey's Future - It's As Easy As 1...2...3

Like most New Jersey residents, you care about a healthy environment with clean air and clean drinking water, a vibrant economy, good schools and a quality of life that reflects all the reasons we call the Garden State our home.

On Election Day, Nov. 4, voters will decide the fate of three ballot questions that could dramatically affect the future of New Jersey's open space, our drinking water and other precious natural resources, and the quality of life we all treasure. It's as simple as 1...2...3.

Public Question No. 1 proposes an increase in funding for preservation for New Jersey's open space, farmland and historic preservation programs without increasing the public tax burden. Public Question No. 2 proposes expanding uses of dedicated tax revenue to fund hazardous discharge cleanups of sites available for redevelopment. Both public questions are proposed amendments to the State Constitution. And Public Question No. 3 is a bond issue proposal to finance restoration and repair of dams, dredging and restoration of lakes, cleaning and desnagging of streams, flood control projects, water resources projects and wastewater treatment system projects.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) understands how these key issues affect citizens' everyday lives. From a DCA perspective:

- We know that we need to preserve our state's open space so we can include parks and recreation areas when planning the revitalization of our urban and suburban cities and towns.
- We know that we need to preserve farmland to help the economic stability of our rural towns.
- We know that as part of our brownfields programs, we need to expand our clean up efforts of hazardous sites so they can become viable areas again where new businesses can thrive.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



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inside

**2-3** Spotlight: 2003 Governor's  
Housing Conference

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# The 2003 Governor Conference on Housing and

## Conference Touts Housing Accomplishments for NJ Residents

Last fall, Governor McGreevey pledged his commitment to provide 20,000 affordable housing units by 2006 – an increase of more than 30 percent from the past four years. This initiated our Leading 20,000 Families Home campaign.

DCA and HMFA took this challenge seriously and not only met – but exceeded – the annual target. In only 18 months, DCA and HMFA provided more than 12,000 of the 20,000-unit commitment. This is a tremendous accomplishment that demonstrates our commitment to keeping our promise to the people of New Jersey.

DCA and HMFA are dedicated to providing valuable tools that encourage Smart Growth, foster economic development, revitalize downtowns, preserve precious open space and address the state's housing needs.



*This year's Governor's Housing Conference hosted more than 1,500 developers, planners, government officials and community organizations over the two-day event*

## Excellence in Housing Award Winners

The Excellence in Housing Awards honor organizations and individuals' efforts to provide affordable housing and create livable neighborhoods for New Jersey residents.

This year's winners are:

- **Outstanding New Affordable Housing Development** - RPM Development Group for Dr. King Plaza
- **Outstanding Historic/Rehabilitation and Affordable Housing Development** - Metropolitan Inn Housing Project developed by Pennrose Properties
- **Outstanding Organization Providing Affordable Housing** - Marshall & Moran Holdings II, LLC for Elizabeth Towers Senior Building
- **Innovative Social Service Program** - Trent Center in Trenton, NJ
- **Personal Achievement** - Rita Wiley, Social Services Coordinator, Rowan Towers Apartments, Trenton, NJ

## What is Your Vision for New Jersey? *Continued from Page 1*

- And we know that water quality affects all of our towns and citizens everyday. Repairing dams, degrading and restoring lakes, cleaning and desnagging streams, and engaging in flood control, water resources and wastewater treatment system projects can positively affect all of our towns' water quality and water management issues.

By supporting public questions 1, 2 and 3, you will contribute to the accelerated preservation of open space and farmland. You will make the decision to help protect and conserve our precious drinking water supplies and other critical natural resources. You will help spur redevelopment and revitalization of our cities and towns. And you will contribute to making New Jersey's communities more desirable, healthier places to live, work and raise families.

"Every park we improve, every river we protect, every farm we preserve is one less place that can be attacked by sprawl," Governor James E. McGreevey said during an announcement of the ballot question on September 29. "Now, it's the public's turn."

Support public questions 1, 2 and 3 on this year's ballot and see how having a part in shaping New Jersey's future truly is as simple as 1...2...3.

## Now Available!

*The New Jersey Brownfields Resource Kit* - a one-stop-shop guide

for all of your brownfields redevelopment needs. Call today for a hard copy at (609) 292-3096

or download a version online at [http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/docs/](http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/docs/brownfieldsresourcekit.pdf)

[brownfieldsresourcekit.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/docs/brownfieldsresourcekit.pdf).



# mes E. McGreevey's Community Development



## Senator Wayne R. Bryant and Assemblyman Albio Sires Honored as Legislators of the Year

DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin (center) honored State Senator Wayne R. Bryant (left) and Assembly Speaker Albio Sires (right) for their contributions to build a strong future for New Jersey's neighborhoods at a Legislative Reception during Governor



McGreevey's Conference on Housing and Community Development. Senator Bryant and Speaker Sires received the 2003 Legislative Award in recognition of their advocacy efforts and success in establishing policies that improve the quality of life for the state's families and communities. With their guidance, the State has established policies that expand housing opportunities, preserve urban open spaces and eliminate the dangers of abandoned sites in our neighborhoods.

## Bus Tour – ABC's of SID's: Tour of Atlantic City Special Improvement District

It was a beautiful afternoon at the shore – and what a perfect day to take a two-hour tour of Atlantic City's Special Improvement District (ACSID). Conference participants were invited to attend a bus tour that focused on Atlantic City's downtown commercial areas. The tour highlighted various areas while providing beneficial background information regarding the organization, management, financing and how it works with various partners, such as the DCA and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA).

The two-hour tour began along the oceanfront, at the recently renovated Kennedy Plaza and Board Hall. It included a walking tour along the sun-drenched Boardwalk and even stopped at Center City Park, in the center of Atlantic City's DCA designated Main Street New Jersey community, to witness the ACSID's Environmental Services parade of maintenance equipment. Other highlights included the Civil Rights Garden, historic Carnegie Library, scores of retail facade, signage and streetscape improvements, new businesses and landscaping projects, and a quick trip through streets beaming with families in fresh new houses in the inlet area. The final stop of the tour was Atlantic City's newest venture "The Walk," a hip, new shopping and entertainment district adjacent to the downtown.

## The Trade Show

This year, more than 80 vendors offering information on community organizations, products and services and government agencies participated in the trade show. During the trade show DCA, HMFA and the American Red Cross partnering with DCA's Division of Fire Safety were able to show off their booths to conference participants. The trade show also offered attendees a varied selection of informational brochures, booklets and handouts.



## Smart Growth Update

We have more good news to announce on the Smart Future front.

On September 18, we announced \$265,000 in Smart Future Planning Grants to benefit Passaic County. The funding will assist the county and four municipalities in their regional smart growth initiatives, including Clifton, Little Falls, Paterson and Prospect Park.

On October 3, we announced a \$60,000 grant to Easthampton Township. The Township will use the grant to fund the development and implementation of a concept plan for the future "Eastampton Village."

Also on October 3, we announced a \$55,000 grant to benefit East Orange, which will use the funding to support the creation of a redevelopment plan for its Main Street area.

On October 7, we announced \$275,000 to benefit Gloucester County. Specifically, Gloucester County received \$150,000 to support the development of a master plan for the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University, which will help drive economic development throughout the region. Glassboro received \$125,000 to conduct cooperative redevelopment planning between Rowan University and the borough. In conjunction with Rowan University, the funding will allow Glassboro to prepare a Downtown Strategic Redevelopment and Implementation Plan to benefit the academic and residential community.

And on October 10, we announced \$150,000 to benefit Camden County. Specifically, the grant will benefit these towns along the Black Horse Pike - Audubon, Audubon Park, Mount Ephraim, Haddon Heights, Haddon Township, Bellmawr and Runnemede.

This brings the total Smart Future Initiative funding to more than \$2 million.



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On November 4, the public will decide the fate of three ballot questions that could dramatically affect the future of New Jersey's open space, our drinking water and other precious natural resources, and the quality of life we all treasure.

Read more about it in this edition.

## In Recognition of Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin Urges all NJ Women to Schedule Regular Gynecologic Examinations

During a recognition event of September as Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, Commissioner Levin (left) provided a personal perspective on the benefits of early detection for ovarian cancer. Joined by her doctors Darlene G. Gibbon, M.D., Clinical Director of Gynecologic Oncology, CINJ and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (center) and Lorna Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Gynecologic Oncology, CINJ and Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (right), Commissioner Levin recounted her successful recovery from surgery for early stage ovarian cancer and urged all women to schedule regular gynecologic examinations with their doctors.



"I am grateful to the medical team at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for the excellent care I received and continue to receive during this process," said Commissioner Levin. "The success of my procedure underscores the importance of regular doctor visits. I strongly urge all NJ women to consult regularly with their physicians to ensure the best possible care."



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner



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